

# Between The Lines

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## DOE/NNSA and the Department of Homeland Security



### ***Bush meets with Homeland Security Council and other senior staff to discuss the Department of Homeland Security***

On June 18<sup>th</sup> the President transmitted to Congress, proposed legislation to create a new Cabinet Department of Homeland Security.

“Today no Federal Government agency has homeland security as its primary mission. Responsibilities for homeland security are dispersed among more than 100 different entities of the Federal Government,” President Bush said. “America needs a unified homeland security structure that will improve protection against today’s threats and be flexible enough to help meet the unknown threats of the future.”

“The mission of the new Department would be to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, to reduce America’s vulnerability to terrorism, and to minimize the damage and recover from attacks that may occur. The Department of Homeland Security would mobilize and focus the resources of the Federal Government, State and local governments, the private sector, and the American people to

accomplish its mission,” Bush said.

Some of the Department of Energy’s programs and emergency response assets are significant pieces of the Homeland Security puzzle.

For example, programs to develop and deploy technologies to protect the nation against chemical and biological attacks and nuclear smuggling would be transferred to the new department.



DOE Secretary Spencer Abraham and NNSA Administrator John Gordon support the President’s action.

“The President has taken a bold step that will ensure our homeland security not only during the current conflict, but for the long term as well. By creating the

Department of Homeland Security, the President has streamlined and consolidated security resources that are currently housed in dozens of government agencies,” Secretary Abraham said.



NNSA Administrator Gordon said, “The President has made a strong proposal that will significantly improve the way in which the government responds to threats against the United States. Centralizing homeland security responsibility in one cabinet level department will improve our response to weapons of mass destruction by leveraging resources currently spread across the government.”

Congress must approve the establishment of the new cabinet office and both houses are working on the legislation.

In the meantime a transition planning office has been set up by the White House to prepare for the new cabinet level office. ♦

# Independence Day - July 4<sup>th</sup> - Lest We Forget



Each year on July 4, Americans celebrate their freedom and independence. Americans who through 235 years of this country's history have acknowledged that we view ourselves as stewards of freedom for generations of Americans who will follow.

Speaking at a 4th of July celebration in 1830 in Washington, D.C., Nathan Smith, a carpenter by trade and patriot in thought, said: "It is for us, fellow citizens, to watch over the sacred legacy of our venerated Fathers, and, when necessary, 'to provide other guards for the future security' of ourselves and

our posterity. To restore, when impaired, our free institutions to their original strength and purity, and to guard them in the future against the open or covert assaults of their enemies."



After September 11th, Independence Day should take on a whole new meaning, remembering the victims, honoring the fallen, saluting the heroes and heroines, and standing firm in our resolve towards terrorism.

The day of the attacks President George W. Bush



had these words of encouragement for the nation. "Today, our nation saw evil, the very worst of human nature. And we responded with the best of America..."



Another American President, John Kennedy, had these words for those who might oppose the United States. "Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet

any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and success of liberty."



As we celebrate this year remember, the United States is truly a diverse nation made up of dynamic people who enjoy the 4th of July with friends, family, and loved ones--each in their own way. It is part of being American and patriotic. ♦



## One of Our Own – Patriot - Hero



AL's Col. Robert (Bob) Cortez, with the Safeguard & Physical Security Div., is on a year detail to the Pentagon working with the Army Operation Center Crisis Action Team.

He is responsible for preparing the daily briefing for the Secretary of the Army on operations worldwide.

On the morning of September 11, he was working at the Pentagon when the hijacked airliner hit.

"I will never forget that day; seeing the fear in peoples eyes. Watching them run for cover looking toward the sky for the second plane heading to Washington DC," Cortez said. "If you recall the film clips from President Kennedy's assassination and seeing people run for cover, it was the same here at the Pentagon; people running under the bridges freeway overpasses seeking protection from another plane."

"I never imagined an attack on our homeland -- never on the

Pentagon!"



After the plane hit, he helped evacuate the officers in the meeting he had be assisting with and began to exit the building.

An Army medic stopped him and asked for help with a badly burned Army Captain.

Aided by an Air Force chaplain, they moved the injured man to the shade. A police officer called for an

ambulance but in all the confusion, none came.

While the medic and a doctor treated the victim, the chaplain and others prayed with him. They stopped a private vehicle and the Army Captain was taken to a nearby hospital where he survived.

"I am proud to be serving my country again," Cortez said, "because freedom is not free."

"Give my regards to my friends and colleagues, especially the Protective Force. Tell them to be Vigilant. God Bless the USA!" ♦

## Pete Gaillard – Working the Issues



Asking Pete who? And what issues?

Well, Pete is the Senior Technical Advisor AL Manager John Arthur brought on board about six weeks ago as fresh set of eyes to look at things as AL goes through its reorganization and the NNSA Realignment.

Pete was a just a little hesitant about the opportunity. "When I came to interview with John it was really a duel interview," he said. "He

was interviewing me and I was interviewing him. I discovered he had a sincere commitment to open communication and I liked that. So here I am."

Pete has been digesting a lot of information on all the varied programs and offices here at AL. "AL has a wide range of issues that really challenge me, vastly different from those at the Savannah River Site," Pete said.

In the short time I have worked with folks here I have found them to be very knowledgeable and diverse in their technical, professional and personal skills," he said. "They are exceptionally nice. I am inspired by their breadth of knowledge and by the breadth of tasks they have

to take on."

Pete handles day-to-day deliverables, tracks issues and projects and provides safety and science advice to AL management. He also is co-chair of the AL Senior Safety Advisory Council. The Council is a group of technical advisors, chartered by AL, to provide Field managers with recommendations and advice on current and future nuclear safety issues.



Pete likes the chili, the people, and the climate here. His wife and two daughters, although very supportive of

this opportunity for him, would like to have him back home.

He is grateful for the flexibility of the detail that allows him to pack up work and head home for a few days at a time so he can spend as much time as possible with his family.

They are planning to visit during the Balloon Fiesta when they will take in some of the scenic beauty of New Mexico and the Southwest.

A native of Georgia, Pete is a graduate of Georgia Tech and lives in Evans. He has worked in the nuclear power plant industry, spent three years at the Yucca Mountain Project with the safety regulatory group, and enjoys golfing, tennis, hiking and jogging. In his other life he is a Project Manager with Washington Safety Management Solutions in Aiken, SC. ♦

## MANAGING CHANGE



On Thursday, June 20th, as part of the "Celebration of Older Workers Month," Dr. David Williams spoke to AL workers on how to manage change.

Dr. Williams, a sociologist at Arizona State University, said managing change is something everyone has to learn, not just on the job but, more importantly, as part of life itself. Williams said what we learn from our experience of managing change within our families can be directly related to

how we deal with the changes on our jobs.

Williams went through a series of illustrations and anecdotes showing how the environment on the job is very much like the environment within the family.

One of his key points was flexibility -- the thing that keeps us young -- both physically and mentally. "A flexible person can face a great many things in life without fear," he said.

"Change is essential to all

living things ... people and institutions."

Another key point was having a full, rounded life outside the job. "People who go outside themselves to focus on helping others in this world realize they are needed," Williams noted. "Being needed by someone, somewhere is a powerful protective force in everyone's life."



He concluded with two important points. First, change is action, not direction.

"Just because we are facing change does not mean the world is ending or things are going badly," Williams said.

Second -- borrowing from the Greek philosophers of 2400 years ago -- he said our character determines our fate.

He added we can prepare for the changes that are ahead for all of us.

Williams said his aim was not necessarily to have people leave the meeting thinking they had learned something they did not know before. He just hoped to have them leave thinking that maybe when it came to the question of how to manage change they might have learned a new way of looking at things. ♦

## AL Awards Science and Engineering Scholarships



Theresa Ponce, with AL's Office of Equal Opportunity, presents Margaret Stevenson with one of ten Society of Women Engineers scholarships

The Society of Women Engineers, Central New Mexico Section (SWE/CNM) presented DOE funded Science and Engineering scholarships to ten recipients at a banquet in Albuquerque, NM, June 14th. The scholarships support the advancement of women in math, science or engineering disciplines.

The recipients were selected from a pool of 32

applicants currently enrolled in engineering or science curricula at post-secondary institutions in New Mexico. The scholarships were awarded based on combined ratings for grade-point average, financial need, participation in extracurricular activities, and submission of an essay.

Scholarships winners were: Priscilla Bustamante and Jaynee Weems, - New

Mexico State University; Emily Cary, Candice Jang, Sariah Jurado, Tiffany Roberts, Margaret Stevenson, and Mariko Suga - University of New Mexico; Mary Irwin - New Mexico Tech, and Lea Keedo - Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute.

SWE is a nationwide educational service organization devoted to encouraging girls and women to pursue careers in science, engineering, and technology fields. ♦

## 18 Graduate Federal Agent Program



On June 5th, 18 candidates graduated from the Office of Transportation Safeguards' (OTS) Federal Agent training academy in Ft. Chaffee, AR.

This class brings the total

number of graduates from the training program to 78 since OTS resumed hiring in the summer of FY 2000.

This is the first time that all of the candidates who started, completed the program.

Over 250 people attended the graduation ceremonies where NNSA Administrator John Gordon, delivered the keynote address.



General Gordon stressed the importance of their assignment and encouraged the graduates in their careers.

The candidates came from diverse backgrounds in the

military and law enforcement. Their backgrounds and experience allowed them to learn from one another as well as from the training program. ♦



A team from the NNSA's Los Alamos National Laboratory that devised a unique way to eliminate acid waste at Los Alamos' plutonium facility was recognized in a White House ceremony recently.

Team members Aquilino Valdez, Ronald Chavez, Benjie T. Martinez and Don Mullins, of the Actinide Process

## Laboratory Team Recognized at White House Ceremony

Chemistry Group, traveled to Washington, D.C., to pick up a 2002 White House Closing the Circle Award in the Recycling category for their work.

Faced with increasingly stringent regulations governing discharges of nitrates from TA-50, the Laboratory needed to drastically reduce the waste stream from the nitric acid dissolution process.

The team's solution, eliminate nearly all the nitrate discharges to the treatment plant. The Nitric Acid Recovery System almost eliminated nitrates in the waste stream, and reduced the nitric acid used in processing operations to about 20 percent of the historic usage.

The wastewater stream is now 99.98 percent pure water, with no measurable plutonium.

The Nitric Acid Recovery System also won a Department of Energy Pollution Prevention Award.

The White House awards program is a national competition among all federal agencies, while the DOE award is based on a DOE complex-wide competition. Both awards acknowledge pollution prevention, recycling and affirmative procurement accomplishments. ♦

## Pantex Facility and Infrastructure Recapitalization Program



*A ribbon cutting ceremony marks the improvement*

BWXT Pantex has successfully completed its first major project under the Facility and Infrastructure Recapitalization Program. The project involved the modification of 24 magazines to meet tornado safety requirements.

In February 2001, the Office of Amarillo Site Operations (OASO) and BWXT Pantex evaluated the protection of explosive

materials and components stored in magazines and decided to enhance magazine construction and improve tornado protection. The magazines were originally constructed during World War II.

The modifications include reinforced concrete roof and front wall panels, heavy steel doors, natural ventilation and lightning protection.

The new construction is

designed to provide a tornado resistant facility.

“The protection of the nation’s Nuclear Weapons Complex assets has been greatly enhanced through the success of this project,” said OASO Director Dan Glenn.

The modification of the magazines was designated as a “Top Five” initiative by BWXT Pantex management.

Plan workers were tasked to complete the project before the start of tornado season. Despite delays due to the September 11 attacks, the project was completed four weeks ahead of schedule and approximately \$600,000 under budget.

“With the completion of this project, we have taken

another step in improving the infrastructure at Pantex,” said Dennis Ruddy, BWXT Pantex President and General Manager. “We have also increased the margin of safety for our employees and our neighbors.”

The Construction Project Management & Engineering Department used a Design/Build contracting approach to accelerate the project schedule. This approach minimized the impact to in-house resources and ongoing projects.

“It required teamwork from several organizations across the plant to make this project a success,” said Laura Valdez, Project Manager. ♦

## KCP Plasma Pen Aides Stockpile Stewardship Program



*Plasma Pen*

Maintaining a safe secure, and reliable nuclear weapons stockpile is NNSA’s number one mission. Finding a useful, cost-effective technology to help you do that is a big plus.

That’s exactly what Kansas City Plant engineer Mark Smith did. He had been looking for a way to use plasma to spot-clean parts but was unable to acquire the technology

until recently from Tepla America which developed an atmospheric pressure plasma (APP) unit, referred to as a “plasma pen.”

The APP had not been at the Plant long before engineer Scot Powell, approached Smith with a suggestion for how to use the plasma pen.

Powell, the lead engineer on the MC3617 interconnect units program, wanted to use the plasma pen to clean the unit’s sleeving before it was repaired.

The method previously used for attempting to repair the cables – patching with polyurethane after cleaning with an

alcohol wipe – didn’t work well because the wipe didn’t clean the surface sufficiently to ensure an adequate bond.

“Plasma cleaning is as clean as you can get,” explained Smith.

Plasma has been used at the Kansas City Plant to clean parts for many years, but until now, plasma cleaning has been done in a vacuum chamber. The primary drawback to using a vacuum chamber is that the entire part or assembly must be placed inside the chamber, and that is not always desirable or possible, as in the case of the MC3617 assembly.

“The parts that were

repaired after cleaning with the plasma pen met all the customer’s requirements,” Smith said.

The plasma pen was purchased for \$15,000 and has been used to recover 12 units since February.

“These units are worth \$18,000 to \$20,000 each, and a number of them were going to be scrapped unless a better repair technique was developed,” said quality liaison Gary Reif.

“Conservative estimates are that within the first three months of use, the APP had paid for itself 15 times over. And we were able to meet our customer’s shipment schedule,” Smith said. ♦

## AL Donors – Years of Success



AL employees have always had big hearts (no pun intended) when it comes to donating blood as attested to by this photo from the

annals of AL history.

In our most recent blood drive we captured 62 units of blood. “While we didn't meet our goal this time, we did contribute significantly to saving lives in New Mexico, and



that is what counts, said Gayle Dye, Chief Vampire.

Thanks to all our donors, the division coordinators and to the volunteers who managed the registration desk and handled logistics.



## Farmers' Market begins at the Kansas City Plant

The Kansas City Plant Farmers' Market opened for business on Tuesday, June 11, boasting fruits, vegetables, baked goods and flowers grown by local farmers.



The event will continue on every Tuesday through October 1.

Market participants will have the opportunity to make donations to

Harvesters, a local food bank. Shoppers also have the opportunity to make contributions by purchasing food at the market, which will then be picked up by Harvesters.

This joint effort alliance was formed to strengthen family farms and rural communities; expand direct markets for small, limited resource producers; educate consumers on the nutritional benefits of consuming more fresh agricultural products; and inform more citizens of the importance of USDA's food recovery efforts to Help the Hungry. ♦



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## Milestones

**Years of Service**  
**May 2002**

**Albuquerque Financial Service Center:**

*Rosemary Cramberg (20)*

**Budget & Resources Management Division:**

*John Sam Johnson (35)*

**Environmental Restoration Division:**

*Andrew Lee Fuller (25)*

**Nuclear Programs Division:**

*Bruce P. Elsner (35)*

**Office of Amarillo Site Operations:**

*Rebecca S. Tracy (10),  
Daniel E. Glenn (20),  
Richard L. Smith (30)*

**Office of Kirtland Site Operations:**

*Gary C. Schmidtke (20),*

*Randall A. Kubasek (25),  
Minerva D. Linback (30)*

**Office of Los Alamos Site Operations:**

*Arthur J. Trujillo (10),  
James M. Howard (25)*

**Office of Transportation Safeguards:**

*Dung M. To (10), William D. Harris (20), Danny E. McGuire (20), William E. West (25), Michael A. Chavez (30)*

**Personnel Security Division:**

*Dawndee C. Onorato (10),  
Mary R. Mendez (30)*

**Special Security & Classification Div.:**

*Charles L. Trujillo (10)*

**Weapons Program Division:**

*Carol T. Combs (20),  
Bernadette Martinez (20)*

## **ATTENTION** **ALL CURRENT & FORMER NUCLEAR** **ENERGY EMPLOYEES AND URANIUM** **WORKERS:**

The U. S. Department of Labor

U. S. Department of Energy

U. S. Congressional Representatives

And The

Espanola Energy Employees Compensation Resource Center

Will be available to assist you in:

- Filing An EEOICPA Claim for **\$150,000.00 plus Medical Expenses in Compensation**

- Get an update on your claim

- Voice your concerns

At the Sheraton Uptown in Albuquerque at  
2600 Louisiana Blvd. NE Albuquerque NM  
July 9 through July 11, 2002 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
and Friday July 12, 2002 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

To make an appointment call: **1-866-272-3622**